

REMARKS

Claim 13 is amended. Claims 13-17 are pending.

The amendments to the claims are based on the application as originally filed, in particular, page 15, last paragraph and FIGS. 1-7, so it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the office action, claims 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of U.S. Patent Publication Number US2003/0069112 to Williams.

In addition, the overall device in U.S. Patent Number 5,624,362 to Wilson was also noted in the office action.

Independent claim 13 is amended to recite that each at least one operating apparatus includes a straight handle shaped to be gripped in a hand of a user, with the respective straight handle being connected with a respective at least one cable and with the respective straight handle being fitted in a freely slidable manner along the respective at least one cable for accommodating the user's work-out requirements. Such a straight handle is clearly shown as elements 30, 130, and 230 in FIGS. 1-7 of the application as originally filed.

Independent claim 13, as amended, is patentable over Williams and Wilson, since each of Williams and Wilson does not disclose or suggest all of the elements, steps, and features of the present invention, including at least one operating apparatus, with each at least one operating apparatus includes a straight handle shaped to be gripped in a hand of a user, with the respective straight handle being connected with a respective at least one cable and with the respective straight handle being fitted in a freely slidable manner along the respective at least one cable for accommodating the user's work-out requirements.

On the contrary, each of Williams and Wilson does not present any sliding coupling between the handles and the respective cables in each respective apparatus of either Williams or Wilson.

Therefore, with Williams and Wilson both lacking any disclosure or suggestion of any sliding coupling between the handles and the respective cables in each respective apparatus, and in particular with Williams and Wilson both lacking any disclosure or suggestion of at least one operating apparatus, with each at least one operating apparatus includes a straight handle shaped to be gripped in a hand of a user, with the respective straight handle being connected with a respective at least one cable and with the respective straight handle being fitted in a freely slidable manner along the respective at least one cable for accommodating the user's work-out requirements, one skilled in the art would not look to Williams or Wilson for the present invention of amended claim 13.

Accordingly, claim 13, as amended, is patentable over Williams and Wilson, so reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 14-17 depend from independent claim 13, and so include the recitation of amended claim 13. For the reasons set forth herein, claims 14-17 are also patentable over Vittone.

Therefore, all pending rejected claims 13-17 are patentable over Williams and Wilson, so reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13-17 are respectfully requested.

Entry and approval of the present amendment and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In case of any deficiencies in fees by the filing of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiencies in fees to Deposit Account Number 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,

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